

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application : BERNARD DELPERIER, ET AL.
 Application No. :
 Filed : Herewith
 For : DENSIFYING HOLLOW POROUS SUBSTRATES BY
 CHEMICAL VAPOR INFILTRATION
 Examiner :
 Attorney's Docket : BDL-371XX

Group Art Unit:

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 D.C. 20231 on _____.

By: _____
 Charles L. Gagnebin III
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT
 Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the
 above-identified application:

In the Claims:

Please amend the Claims to read as follows (a copy of the
 amended claims showing the additions and deletions appears at
 the end for the Examiner's convenience):

Express Mail Number

EV 009950630 US

3/ A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the fraction of the total reactive gas flow sweeping over a face of the or each substrate placed in the enclosure is not less than 5%.

4/ A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the fraction of the total reactive gas flow sweeping over a face of the or each substrate placed in the enclosure is not less than 10%.

5/ A method according to claim 1, characterized in that a plurality of substrates are densified simultaneously, the substrates being placed inside the enclosure in alignment in the general flow direction of the gas through the enclosure.

6/ A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the guidance of a portion of the gas flow is provided by a wall portion which penetrates part of the way into the volume defined by the concave inside face of the or each substrate.

8/ A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the guidance of a portion of the gas flow is provided by passages

formed through a body housed inside the volume defined by the concave inside face of the or each substrate.

12/ An installation according to claim 9, characterized in that the flow distribution means comprise one or more trays which are disposed transversely inside the enclosure and which define flow-distributing passages formed by openings made through the trays and by gaps left between the trays and a side wall of the enclosure.

Please add the following new claims 13-21:

13/ A method according to claim 2, characterized in that the fraction of the total reactive gas flow sweeping over a face of the or each substrate placed in the enclosure is not less than 5%.

14/ A method according to claim 2, characterized in that the fraction of the total reactive gas flow sweeping over a face of the or each substrate placed in the enclosure is not less than 10%.

15/ A method according to claim 2, characterized in that a plurality of substrates are densified simultaneously, the substrates being placed inside the enclosure in alignment in the general flow direction of the gas through the enclosure.

16/ A method according to claim 3, characterized in that a plurality of substrates are densified simultaneously, the substrates being placed inside the enclosure in alignment in the general flow direction of the gas through the enclosure.

17/ A method according to claim 4, characterized in that a plurality of substrates are densified simultaneously, the substrates being placed inside the enclosure in alignment in the general flow direction of the gas through the enclosure.

18/ An installation according to claim 10, characterized in that the flow distribution means comprise one or more trays which are disposed transversely inside the enclosure and which define flow-distributing passages formed by openings made through the trays and by gaps left between the trays and a side wall of the enclosure.

19/ An installation according to claim 11, characterized in that the flow distribution means comprise one or more trays which are disposed transversely inside the enclosure and which define flow-distributing passages formed by openings made through the trays and by gaps left between the trays and a side wall of the enclosure.

20/ A method according to claim 2, characterized in that:

the fraction of the total reactive gas flow sweeping over a face of the or each substrate placed in the enclosure is not less than 10%;

a plurality of substrates are densified simultaneously, the substrates being placed inside the enclosure in alignment in the general flow direction of the gas through the enclosure;

the guidance of a portion of the gas flow is provided by a wall portion which penetrates part of the way into the volume defined by the concave inside face of the or each substrate;

the gas flow is guided in part by a cylindrical wall portion to the vicinity of the end wall of the or each substrate.

21/ A method according to claim 2, characterized in that:

the fraction of the total reactive gas flow sweeping over a face of the or each substrate placed in the enclosure is not less than 10%;

a plurality of substrates are densified simultaneously, the substrates being placed inside the enclosure in alignment in the general flow direction of the gas through the enclosure;

the guidance of a portion of the gas flow is provided by a wall portion which penetrates part of the way into the volume defined by the concave inside face of the or each substrate;

the gas flow is guided in part by a cylindrical wall portion to the vicinity of the end wall of the or each substrate;

the guidance of a portion of the gas flow is provided by passages formed through a body housed inside the volume defined by the concave inside face of the or each substrate.

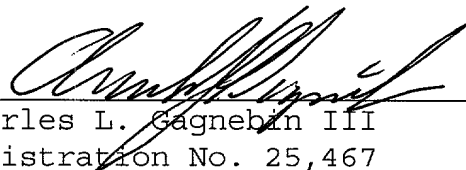
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 3-6, 8 and 12 have been amended; new claims 13-21 have been added; and claims 1, 2, 7 and 9-11 remain unchanged. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

Red-lined claims for the Examiner's convenience:

3/ A method according to claim ~~1-or-claim-2~~, characterized in that the fraction of the total reactive gas flow sweeping over a face of the or each substrate placed in the enclosure is not less than 5%.

4/ A method according to claim ~~1-or-claim-2~~, characterized in that the fraction of the total reactive gas flow sweeping over a face of the or each substrate placed in the enclosure is not less than 10%.

5/ A method according to ~~any one of claims 1-to-4~~, characterized in that a plurality of substrates are densified simultaneously, the substrates being placed inside the enclosure in alignment in the general flow direction of the gas through the enclosure.

6/ A method according to ~~any one of claims 1-to-5~~, characterized in that the guidance of a portion of the gas flow is provided by a wall portion which penetrates part of the way into the volume defined by the concave inside face of the or each substrate.

8/ A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that the guidance of a portion of the gas flow is provided by passages formed through a body housed inside the volume defined by the concave inside face of the or each substrate.

12/ An installation according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~, characterized in that the flow distribution means comprise one or more trays which are disposed transversely inside the enclosure and which define flow-distributing passages formed by openings made through the trays and by gaps left between the trays and a side wall of the enclosure.